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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1958

ARTHUR LUCAS
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,D.P.H.

BOROUGH OF BRACKLEY

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1958

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Brackley.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1958.

The Vital Statistics for the Borough compare favourably with those for the Country generally. Measles assumed epedemic proportions during the year and for the first time for many years cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in the Borough.

Your obedient Servant,

Arthur Lucas L.R.C.P.,L.R.C.S.,
D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

August 1960

Public Health Committee

Councillor E.A.Tutton Chairman, Councillor G.C.Hodges, Vice Chairman, The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor E.V.H.G. Wherry Councillors E.E.V.Brewin, L.S.Coles, H.C.Miller, P.H.E.Smith, R.T.Spreckley and R.J.Staniforth.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health: Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,D.P.H.,
Also holds appointments of:-
Medical Officer of Health, Brackley Rural District Council
Medical Officer of Health, To cester Rural District Council.
Medical Officer of Health, Norrhampton Rural District Council
Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Northamptonshire County Council
and Assistant School Medical Officer of Health Northamptonshire County Council.

Public Health Inspector: Clifford Morgan, C.R.S.H., who also holds the appointment of Borough Surveyor.

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1958

Area of Borough (acres)...	1,685
Population, estimated mid-year..	3,110
Number of inhabited houses, end of 1958	992
Rateable Value of the Borough 1st October 1958	£29 026
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£115

Extract from Vital Statistics for the Year

	Males	Female	Total	Eng.& Wales
Live Births:				
Legitimate...	32	27	59	
Illegitimate	1	1	2	
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			19.6	16.4

Still-births: One still-birth was recorded during the year under review: this is equivalent to a still-birth rate per 1,000 (live and still-births) of 16.1. The rate for the administrative County is 22.1 and that for England and Wales 21.6.

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths (all causes)	7	17	24

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 7.7 Eng. & Wales 11.7

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

puerperal sepsis ... ... nil

Other Puerperal causes ... ... nil

Infant Mortality:

Deaths of infants under one year ... ... nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 1
Deaths from Measles ... ... nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough ... ... nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ... nil
Deaths from Pregnancy, child-birth or abortion.. ... nil

Area: There was no change during the year in the administrative area of the Borough which remains at 1,685 acres.

Population: The resident mid-year population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar-General is 3,110 and the vital statistics are based on this figure.

Deaths: The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General, after adjusting for inward and outward transferable deaths is 24. The death-rate calculated on the mid-year estimated population is 7.7 as compared with 11.1 for the administrative County of Northamptonshire and 11.7 for England and Wales.

A table giving a list of the causes of death in the Borough for the year under review classified under the various causes if given on page 3.

Births: The number of births which occured in the Borough during the year was 61. This is equivalent to a birth rate of 19.6. The rate for the administrative County was 16.9 and that for England and Wales 16.4.

Infant Mortality: It is gratifying to record that there were no deaths of infants under one year of age during the year under review. The rate per 1,000 live births for the Northamptonshire County was 19.7 and 22.5 for England and Wales.

The following tables give the birth-rate, death-rate and infant-mortality rate for the Borough, the administrative County of Northamptonshire and England and Wales for the past five years:-

Year.	Birth-rate			Death-rate			Infant Mortality Rate		
	Brackley Borough	Northampton shire	England & Wales	Brackley Borough	Northampton shire	England & Wales	Brackley Borough	Northampton shire	England & Wales.
1954	17.1	16.20	15.20	12.30	11.04	11.30	58.8	23.49	25.50
1955	19.2	15.49	15.00	13.50	11.38	11.70	nil	20.79	24.90
1956	20.3	16.67	14.60	10.00	11.24	11.30	15.8	19.68	23.80
1957	15.5	17.03	16.10	14.20	10.97	11.5	62.5	22.53	23.0
1958	19.6	16.9	16.4	7.7	11.1	11.7	nil	19.7	22.5

Registered Causes of Death, 1958

Causes	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory...	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other forms...	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diptheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases..	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	-	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	-	-	-
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	2	2	4
18. Coronary disease, angina	3	3	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease... ...	-	1	1
20. Other heart disease	1	4	5
21. Other circulatory disease...	-	3	3
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	-	-
24. Bronchitis	-	1	1
25. Other disease of respiratory system ...	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia or prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion ...	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	1	-	1
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34. All other accidents	-	2	2
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of War	-	-	-
All Causes	7	17	24.

SECTION B GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities: The examination of pathological specimens and samples of water is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Walton Street, Oxford. The service is entirely free of charge and Medical Practitioners in the Borough submit pathological specimens direct to the laboratory.

Ambulance Facilities: Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are removed and treated at either the Isolation Hospital at Northampton or Oxford.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade continued to operate their Service during the year. The Service operates under contract with the Hospital Management Authority and was available for the removal to hospital of surgical and non-infectious cases. The service, which is available by day and night is free and is a great asset to residents of the Borough and surrounding area.

Treatment Centres and Clinics: The Infant Welfare Clinic continued to operate during the year and sessions were held on the second Thursday of every month at the Women's Institute, Manor Road, Brackley. Orthopaedic Clinics, Vision Clinics and Dental Clinics for School Children which are organised by the County Council operated during the year under review. Preventive and after-care services for tuberculosis cases are administered by the County Council.

Nursing in the Home: The County Council operate a complete service within the Borough and "Home Helps" are available in connection with infirm or chronic cases treated at home. The "After-Care" Committee which was established during the year 1955, continued to operate, and a body of willing workers organised efforts to obtain funds, and collect clothing for distribution to those in need.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

Water Supply: The main water supply for the Borough is from a deep well with a fifteen inch bore hole at the bottom. A submersible electric pump is used to raise the water to two storage tanks of 120,000 and 12,000 gallons capacity respectively. The water is not filtered but chlorinated and samples taken periodically and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination showed that it was of good bacterial purity.

Water from the supplementary main of the Bucks Water Board System was used during the year in order not to make undue demands in the Council's well and not unduely reduce the head level in the water in the bore-hole. The amount of water taken from this source during the year was 4,560,049 gallons a daily average throughout the year of 12,493 gallons.

The storage capacity at the water-works represents approximately one day's consumption and as the maximum gallonage which can be taken from the Bucks Water Board's supply of 60,000 gallons daily, the need, as I have stressed in previous years, for greater storage capacity at the Waterworks is felt when it is found necessary to change the submersible pump which is a fairly major operation.

Sewage Disposal: The sewage disposal works comprising two filter beds, two sedimentation tanks, humus lagoons and electrical plant for lifting the level of one outfall sewer continued to function fairly satisfactory. During heavy rains difficulty is experienced in treating properly the incread volumes. With the exception of thirty-one houses in outlying parts of the district where the levels will not permit connection to the Council's system of sewers, all premises are connected to the sewerage.

Rivers and Streams: The effluent from the sewage works discharges into the river Ouse and a complaint was received from the Ouse Catchment Board of the high suspended matter content of a sample of the effluent which they had taken and submitted for examination.

Camping Sites: There are no camping sites within the Borough.

Smoke Abatement. No action was found necessary in connection with smoke abatement during the year under review.

Swimming Pool: The public swimming pool owned by the Council was used during

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the year and was filled with water from the Council's mains. A sand filter with electrical pumping gear was installed during this year and a great improvement was effected in the condition of the water. The water flows from the deep end to a sand filter· a drip feed of chloros mixes with the water in the outlet chamber and electrical pumps return the filtered water to a fountain where it flows to the shallow end.

Eradication of Bed Bugs: No action was found necessary in connection with premises infested by bed bugs.

Public Cleansing: House refuse was collected weekly using direct labour and a "Bantam" Karrier refuse collecting vehicle fitted with sliding covers. One part of the Borough is covered on Thursdays and the other on Fridays. Refuse is disposed of by tipping with the Borough at a point where no nuisance is caused.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act: The provisions of this Act functioned during the year and Mr. G. Bartlett was employed as a part-time operative. The service is free to all house premises but a charge was made for treatment at business premises. This method works satisfactorily and no major infestations were reported. Householders are glad to avail themselves of the service and readily report the presence of rodents in and around their premises. Warfarin with oatmeal baits is used and good results were obtained. Sewers were tested with with sausage rusk but no take was observed. The number of premises inspected was as follows:-

Local authority premises...	3
Dwelling houses	38
All other, including business premises	18
Agricultural premises	2
Total..	61

The number of minor infestations found was 26; these were treated with good results. The refuse tip and sewage disposal works were regularly test-bated and if necessary treated with poison.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

Number of visits and inspections:-

Visits and inspections at slaughter-house...	164
Inspection of butchers' shops	22
Number of old drainages tested	2
Number of new drainages tested	14
Inspections of bakehouses	12
Inspections of meat hawkers' vans	10
Housing Inspections	115
Inspections of fried fish shops	10
Inspections in connection with rodent control	61
Inspections of factories and workshops	18

SECTION D

HOUSING

Slum Clearance: No action was taken during the year in connection with 21 houses which have been scheduled as unfit for human habitation. These were included in a statement submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1955 as being unfit for habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.

No Council houses were erected during the year under review. The total number of houses built since the War is 204. The number of private enterprise houses completed during the year was 6 and there were 16 under construction at the end of the year.

Improvement Grants: The Council continued to operate the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949 whereby owners of dwelling-houses may apply to the local authority for a grant towards providing additional amenities to their houses, such as the provision of constant hot water, indoor sanitation, bathroom etc., and the authority may subject to the submission of plans and competitive tenders for the work, give a grant towards the cost which may be up to fifty per cent of the total cost subject to a maximum of £400. During the year three applications were received and grants were made in two cases and the amount involved was £183.15.0.

SECTION E — INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply: The number of retailers in the Borough is 3 who supplementary licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested, Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised and Pasteurised Milk. All milk retailed in the Borough is produced outside the area.

The Food Hygiene Regulations: The provisions of these Regulations which provide for the cleanliness of food premises, hygenic methods of handling food, the cleanliness of persons engaged in the food trade were observed in the various food shops in the Borough. There are 24 shops where food is sold, served or prepared for sale; these were regularly visited to see that the Regulations were being observed. Retailers continued to display notices requesting the public to refrain from taking dogs into the shops.

Meat and Other Foods: The licenced slaughter-house continued to operate during the year. The numbers of animals slaughtered were as follows:-

Bovines...	285
Sheep & lambs...	1426
Pigs	307
Calves	7

Regular visits were made to the slaughter-house and upon inspection meat and offal weighing 5 cwts. 3 qrs. 3 lbs. were found to the diseased unfit for consumption and were voluntarily surrendered. Diseased meat and offal were regularly collected by a reputable merchant for further utilisation. 43 tins of food, 13 lbs corned beef, 28 lbs pork luncheon meat and 6½ lbs pine apple pulp were voluntarily surrendered from shops, as the food was unfit for consumption.

SECTION F — PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of infectious disease were reported during the year:-

Scarlet fever...	1
Erysipelas	1
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	3
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis ...	2
Measles	86

There were no deaths from infectious disease. The cases of poliomyelitis were treated at hospital and one of the cases is receiving treatment for slight paralysis of the leg.

Vaccination and Immunisation: The following particulars of vaccination and immunisation carried out durin the year have been supplied by Dr. C.M.Smith County Medical Officer of Health :-

Smallpox Vaccination

	Under 1.	1.	2 - 4.	5 - 14.	15 or over	Total
Primary	59	-	5	2	6	72
Re-vaccination	-	-	-	4	6	10

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5 - 9.	10 - 14.	Total	Third injs. 0 - 14	15 or over.
-	26	38	41	31	144	307	587	121	35

Diphtheria Immunisation

	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5 - 9.	10 - 14	Total.	Booster.
Diphtheria Immunisation only	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	8
Combined Diphtheria/ Whooping cough	28	1	5	5	1	1	-	41	2
Total Diphtheria Immunisations	30	2	5	5	1	1	-	44	10
Whooping cough only	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	-

Number of Children who have completed a full

Course of Diphtheria Immunisation

Age at 31,12,58 i.e. born in year	Under 1. 1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1949-1953	1944-1948	Total under 15
Number immunised	13	23	36	43	37	167	161	480

TUBERCULOSIS: There were no new cases of tuberculosis reported during the year. One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was reported cured and there was one inward transfer of pulmonary tuberculosis. The numbers of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year were as follows:-

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary...	3	4	7
Non-pulmonary ,,, ,,, ,,,	3	1	4
Total	6	5	11